

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 02349 01 OF 02 251220Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 /076 W
----- 019019

P R 251015Z NOV 75

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1694

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 2349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, EEC

SUBJ: PUBLIC SPECULATION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS IN BERLIN FOR
PARLIAMENT

REF: A. BONN 19059; B. BONN 18468; C. USBERLIN 2328

1. SUMMARY: EC PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS POT HAS BEEN
BUBBLING IN PUBLIC HERE SINCE APPEARANCE OF DIE
WELT STORY (REF A). BERLIN FDP REP IN BUNDESTAG
WHOSE COMMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE TOUCHED OFF SPATE OF
MOSTLY CRITICAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS WELL AS DIE WELT
ARTICLE HAS REITERATED BELIEF THAT ALLIES AND FRG
SHOULD, FROM PRUDENCE AND DESIRE TO MAKE UNILATERAL
CONCESSION TO SOVIETS, OPT IN INDIRECT ELECTION. HIS
POSITION HAS IN TURN PROVOKED CRITICISM FROM BERLIN
CDU REP IN STRASBOURG PARLIAMENT, THREE PARTIES'
REPS IN EUROPA UNION, PETER LORENZ, HEAD OF
BERLIN CDU, AND, IN MORE LIMITED WAY, SENATOR
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 02349 01 OF 02 251220Z

FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS STOBBE. THOUGHTFUL TAGESSPIEGEL

EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, WHILE REGRETTING PREMATURE PUBLIC DISCUSSION, CONCLUDES THAT SOME FORM OF INDIRECT SELECTION OF BERLIN DEPUTIES IS NOW INEVITABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. SPATE OF PUBLICITY INCLUDING DIE WELT ARTICLE WHICH REPORTS ALLEGED SECRET INTERIOR MINISTRY STUDY, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY DPA STORY FROM BRUSSELS THAT HANS-GUENTER HOPPE, BERLIN BUNDESTAG REP WHO IS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF FDP FRAKTON, SAID IN COURSE OF VISIT TO EC HEADQUARTERS THAT BERLIN SHOULD DEMONSTRATE "SELF-MODERATION" ON DIRECT ELECTIONS AND CONTENT ITSELF WITH INDIRECT SYSTEM MODELLED AFTER THAT LONG IN EXISTENCE FOR BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. HOPPE SAID EC VOCATIONAL CENTER DISPUTE HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS WOULD PRODUCE SOVIET PROTESTS AND THAT ALLIES WOULD WELCOME IT IF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION QUESTION DID NOT LEAD THEM INTO RENEWED BERLIN DISPUTES. HOPPE WAS QUOTED AS EXPRESSING HOPES THAT BERLIN DEPUTIES WOULD RETAIN FULL VOTING RIGHTS IN STRASBOURG AND THAT SOVIETS WOULD RECIPROCATATE FOR RENUNCIATION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS BY MODERATING THEIR POLICY ON INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN FRG TREATIES.

3. HOPPE'S SOMEWHAT SURPRISING POSITION HAS DRAWN FIRE FROM OTHER LOCAL POLITICIANS. BERLIN'S THREE PARTY REPS IN EUROPA UNION ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT "DEEPLY REGRETTING" HOPPE'S COMMENTS WHICH THEY SAW AS LIKELY TO MAKE CITY'S POSITION AS INTEGRAL PART OF EC SUBJECT FOR POLITICAL SPECULATION. BERLIN CDU BUNDESTAG MEMBER AMREHN, WHO IS ALSO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN IN EC PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, ARGUED THAT INDIRECT ELECTION OF BERLIN DEPUTIES WOULD BE CONTRARY TO OBJECTIVE OF EC PARLIAMENTARY REFORM AND THAT IT NOT UNDERSTANDABLE WHY BERLINERS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM DIRECT VOTING SINCE CITY HAD "BELONGED TO EC FROM THE BEGINNING." CHAIRMAN OF BERLIN CDU LORENZ CONCENTRATED HIS

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 02349 01 OF 02 251220Z

FIRE ON HOPPE'S OSTPOLITIK DECLARING THAT VOLUNTARY, ONE-SIDED CONCESSIONS ARE NOT HONORED BY SOVIETS WHO RESPOND WITH NEW DEMANDS. LORENZE CHARGED THAT IT WAS IRRESPONSIBLE FOR BERLIN BUNDESTAG REP TO MISREPRESENT INTERESTS OF CITY BY NOT SUFFICIENTLY THOUGHT OUT STATEMENTS. SENATOR STOBBE ALSO ATTACKED HOPPE'S EFFORTS TO FORGE LINK BETWEEN VOLUNTARY BERLIN RENUNCIATION OF DIRECT VOTING AND

SOVIET CONCESSIONS IN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRG SAYING THAT SUCH LINKAGE TURNED DIRECT ELECTIONS INTO "DEMONSTRATIVE POLITICAL QUESTION." STOBBE ARGUED ELECTIONS QUESTION SHOULD BE DECIDED BY SENAT, FRG AND ALLIES ON IT LEGAL ASPECTS BUT THAT "IT WAS NOT TO BE EXCLUDED" THAT FINAL RESULT WOULD BE SYSTEM ANALOGOUS TO THAT UNDER WHICH BERLIN'S BUNDESTAG REPS ARE CHOSEN BY HOUSE OF REPS. STUNG BY CRITICISMS, HOPPE HAS DEFENDED HIS ORIGINAL REMARKS AS EFFORT TO REDUCE EAST-WEST CONFLICT OVER BERLIN AND HAS REPEATED HIS BELIEF THAT ALLIES WOULD WELCOME GERMAN EFFORT TO BUILD UP CREDITHWITH SOVIETS OVER EC QUESTION THAT COULD BE USED TO GOOD EFFECT IN BILATERAL FRG-SOVIET PROBLEMS.

4. TAGESSPIEGEL CARRIED FAIRLY FULL REPORT FROM ITS BONN CORRESPONDENT NOV 22 ON BOELLING PRESS STATEMENTS (REF A). ONLY ADDITIONAL ITEM WAS STATEMENT THAT BOELLING INTIMATED IT NOT EXCLUDED THAT FRG WILL EVENTUALLY ENTER INTO CONTACT WITH SOVIETS, AS WELL AS ALLIES, ON DIRECT ELECTION QUESTION. PAPER ALSO CARRIED THOUGHTFUL COMMENTARY BY CHIEF POLITICAL EDITOR JOACHIM BOELKE WHICH REGRETTED THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EC PARLIAMENT HAD BECOME PUBLIC QUESTION EARLIER THAN EXPECTED BECAUSE OF HOPPE'S ILL-TIMED REMARKS. PAPER NOTED THAT, DESPITE FACT BERLIN REPS HAD BEEN ON EQUAL BASIS IN STRASBOURG WITH OTHER REPS UNTIL NOW AND ALL CONCERNED WERE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE POWERS FOR BERLIN REPS, "IT NOW HOWEVER IS LESS PROBABLE THAT A FORM CAN BE FOUND WHICH WILL MAKE DIRECT ELECTIONS POSSIBLE ALSO IN BERLIN." BOELKE ARGUED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 BERLIN 02349 01 OF 02 251220Z

ALLIED VIEWS ON CITY'S STATUS OR WITH QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT IF FRG ADOPTED LAW WHICH TREATED BERLIN AND FRG TERRITORY AS INTEGRAL UNITHFOR EC ELECTIONS AND THAT ONLY THREE POSSIBILITIES FOR SELECTING BERLIN REPS NOW PRESENT THEMSELVES:

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 02349 02 OF 02 251218Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /076 W
----- 018968

P R 251015Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1695

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 2349

A. BERLIN HOUSE OF REPS WOULD CHOOSE REPS IN
SAME MANNER AS IT CHOOSES BUNDESTAG REPS AFTER
FRG HAS AGREED TO SET ASIDE CERTAIN NUMBER OF
PLACES FOR BERLIN IN ITS NATIONAL ALLOTMENT;

B. BUNDESTAG WOULD CHOOSE BERLIN REPS AFTER
RECEIVING APPROPRIATE "SUGGESTIONS" IN SOME MANNER
FROM BERLIN; OR

C. BERLINERS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN PARTY LISTS
WHICH WOULD BE VOTED UPON ONLY IN FRG. BOELKE
ADMITTED COMPLEXITY OF BERLIN LEGAL SITUATION BUT
SAID THIS ARGUED FOR PROSPECTIVE SOLUTIONS BEING
REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED WITHOUT PRESUPPOSITIONS AND
EMOTION.

5. COMMENT: HOPPE'S COMMENTS WERE A SURPRISE, BUT
HE HAS IN PAST DEMONSTRATED THAT HE HAS GOOD
CONTACTS WITHIN FRG EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THEY MAY
HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO REFLECT SOMETHING OF SOFT-
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 02349 02 OF 02 251218Z

LINE FEELING ON EC ELECTIONS ISSUE ATTRIBUTED BY
FRENCH TO HIS PARTY CHAIRMAN GENSCHER (REF B).
IN ANY EVENT ISSUE IS NOW BEFORE PUBLIC AND IN

WAY THAT IS NOT ENTIRELY CONTRARY TO ALLIED INTERESTS. SURPRISING AMOUNT OF CRITICISM OF HOPPE THUS FAR HAS BEEN DIRECTED NOT TOWARD MAIN POINT THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO OPT FOR SOME SORT OF INDIRECT ELECTION SYSTEM BUT TOWARD FACT THAT HE HAS SPOKEN OUT NOW AND TOWARD ALLEGED NAIVETE ON POSSIBILITY OF GETTING SOVIET CONCESSIONS. SOME PART OF BASIS FOR GOVERNMENT COALITION TO DEFEND PUBLICLY WHATEVER RESTRICTIONS ON BERLIN PARTICIPATION ALLIES FINALLY DECIDE NECESSARY HAS NOW BEEN LAID ALBEIT IN MANNER WHICH PAINTS ALLIES AS LESS THAN RESOLUTE. PREMATURE PUBLICITY ENGENDERED BY HOPPE COMMENTS AS WELL AS INTERIOR MINISTRY REPORT UNEARTHED BY DIE WELT RATHER THAN ALLIES, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO ATTRACT MOST OF PARTISAN SNIPING FROM THOSE WHO THINK MAXIMUM POSITION BEST SERVES BERLIN'S INTERESTS. ON OTHER HAND, THERE MAY NOW BE INCREASED INTEREST IN FINDING MIDDLE COURSE SUCH AS SECOND OPTION OUTLINED BY BOELKE IN TAGESSPIEGEL OR PROPOSAL SKETCHED IN REF C, WHICH AGAIN LEADS US TO RECOMMEND THAT BONN GROUP ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOME MEANS TO GIVE BERLINERS BIT MORE IN STRASBOURG ELECTIONS THAN THEY NOW HAVE IN BONN ELECTIONS AT SUCH TIME AS IT BEGINS TO WORK ON MODALITIES OF SELECTION PROCESS. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTIONS, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN02349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750410-0294
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751113/aaaaakyd.tel
Line Count: 248
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BONN 19059, 75 BONN 18468, 75 USBERLIN 2328
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUBLIC SPECULATION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS IN BERLIN FOR PARLIAMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, US, UK, FR, UR, EEC
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006